

April Newsletter

Caring for Children. Not for Profit

We begin today and would like to acknowledge the Noongar or Bibbulmun People, the traditional owners of the land on which we are gathered here at Blue Gum, and we pay our respect to their Elders, both past and present. We also extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people here in our community

From the Front Desk

Hello Parents, Grandparents and Friends of Blue Gum



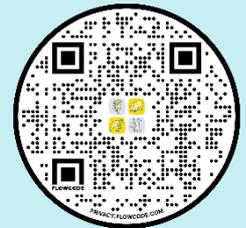
It was so nice to have the chickens at Blue Gum yet again for another year during Easter, the children enjoy the hatching of chickens so much! And even though we have them every year I am always amazed by the hatching, and they grow so quickly too!

I hope everyone is staying well as we navigate our way through COVID, we acknowledge that this has been a difficult time for families and sincerely appreciate all the support and patience received. As of Friday the 29th of April, we will be seeing a lifting of mandatory mask wearing. And whilst they are no longer mandatory the advice received from our Education Care and Regulatory Unit is to encourage mask wearing where physical distancing isn't possible.



What this means for Blue Gum is that we will be continuing with the current door drop off/pick up process for now, minimizing face-to-face contact with families where at all possible. This is not indefinite and will be reviewed later as we slowly begin to reintroduce a relaxing of restrictions. For now, your children will be able to enjoy incursions again in small groups. Students will come back into the service and a family at a time will be able to have tours again.

COVID-19 Public Health and Social Measures To Ease



Use of Wet bags

We are encouraging the use of Wet Bags instead of plastic bags to help our environment.



Exciting Months Ahead

Emergency Services Week, Fireman Kevin, Reconciliation Week, Nature Play Week and Photo Day!



As previously discussed, families are more than welcome to come in and utilize our family room for visits. You can make a mutual appointment with your educators to come in and have a visit if there is anything you wish to discuss, or any concerns that you may have. I hope that parents have always felt welcomed despite the need to make changes due to COVID.

You may have noticed via Storypark and email that I have shared a link to Blue Gum 2022 survey. If you have not already done so, please consider taking part in our survey, we have tried to make it as easy as possible for you to participate, there is even a QR code below for your added convenience.

As we approach winter with a predicted bad flu season let us do all that we can to stay well, and a gentle reminder that if your child has a temperature, vomiting or diarrhoea please keep them at home until at least 24 hours after the last temperature, vomit or diarrhoea has occurred. If you have any doubt about whether your child should attend Blue Gum, please seek medical advice. We thank you for your continued support.

We are going ahead with parent evening for Wombats, Kangaroos and Koalas; however, the date has now been changed to **Wednesday May 25th**. Please look out for the room sheets that will be placed in the foyer 2 weeks prior for you to put your name down.

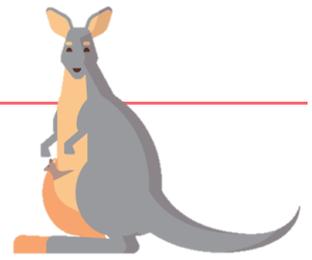
That's all from me currently, if you have any queries or questions please do not hesitate to ask, I am here to help.

Warm regards
Jane
Director



Blue Gum Parent Survey 2022





From The Joeys Room

Greetings from the Joeys Room

We have had a very busy few months in the Joeys room with lots of challenging obstacle courses and exploring happening indoors and outside.

We can't believe that it is almost May already and the start of the cooler and wet weather. The mornings have recently got quite cold. Please dress your child warmly for drop off but have cooler clothes in their bags for them to change into when the weather warms up. Please send in at least 2 changes of clothing for the day, but more would be better as we love messy sensory experiences.

If your child has a rain jacket and gum boots, could you please send them in for the rainy days. We all have great fun stomping in the puddles and catching and talking about the rain. In Norway they say "There is no such thing as bad weather only inappropriate clothing".

Please remember to label all their clothing, plus milk and water bottles, so that things don't go astray.

We still have some children without wet bags. We are trying to practise sustainability, and to move away from using plastic bags, so would appreciate each child having a wet bag for their soiled clothing.

Thanks to the parents that have sent in photos and news from their children's holidays, weekends, and days that they're not at Blue Gum. We are always happy receive this family input and to incorporate it into the Joeys curriculum to extend on for the children.

We have some children that have recently started walking. Well done, Elle, Ada, and Cassidy! We also have some that are eagerly practising pulling themselves to standing on all the furniture and play equipment. It is wonderful watching all the children persisting with the challenges involved in learning new skills and their satisfaction and pride in achieving these. It is such an exciting age group to work with as there is so much development happening, emotionally and physically, in the time that they are with us in Joeys.

The children loved having the eggs in the incubator from 'You can hatch us' over the Easter period. They enjoyed watching the eggs hatch into little chicks and then running around in their chick house. We had many trips to the foyer to see and talk about the chicks and to have a hold of them. It is such a wonderful learning experience for the children.

We wish all our mothers a very Happy Mother's Day for the 8th of May. We hope you all have a wonderful day with your families.

If there is anything you would like to discuss with the Educators, please feel free to contact the office to make an appointment for a suitable time.

With thanks

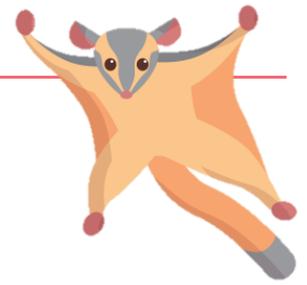
Di, Abbey, Loretta, and Sian



"There's no such thing as bad weather, only inappropriate clothing"



~ Sir Ranulph Fiennes



From The Possums Room

Hello Families,

We have had a great month in our Possums Room with lots of learning and fun! The Possums communication skills are developing well, and they are inquisitive asking lots of questions, curious and eager to learn about their world.

This month Blue Gum was visited by Chicks-You-Can-Hatch and the Possums enjoyed watching the chicks hatch out of eggs before growing into little fluffy chicks that ran around their little home peeping.

As the weather is becoming cooler, please ensure your child has a jumper, pants, and shoes to wear for when we have our outdoor play. We would also love to take the children outside in the rain to enjoy themselves on those rainy, wet days so if raincoats and gumboots could be provided in their bags that would be great.

We are still looking to start up a family picture wall, so please email us or put up on Storypark a family photo that we can put up for the children to look at and talk to each other about. Thank you to all who have already sent theirs in, much appreciated.

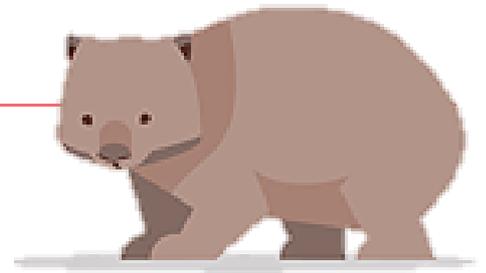
We would love some more family input from our families and welcome you to send us pictures through Story Park to let us know what you and your families are getting up to, learning and exploring. With the drop offs and pickups happening the way they are we don't see each other very much, please remember that if you have any questions or concerns feel free to get in touch with us through Storypark. If you feel you need to have a chat face to face that can be arranged at a time that suits both parties.

To all our Mums we wish you a very happy and relaxed Mother's Day and we hope you get spoilt.

Warm regards

Kat, Rowan, Paige, and Deb





From The Wombats Room

Hello families,

We've already had a very productive first 4 months of the year where we have been continuing to establish strong bonds with the Wombats. We support the Wombats with experiences based on the Wombats needs, individual interests/family input/intentional teaching along with our Educators input.

The Wombats have been keeping very busy with Harmony Week, Stories Told in Many Ways, Chickens You Can Catch, Anzac Week. You can imagine for most of the Wombats the highlight of the month of April was the 'Chickens you can Hatch'. We also have been having a closer look at our 'Emotions' as well as looking into the Indigenous Culture through music and the arts. The children loved making handmade poppies for Anzac Day, the creative arts are always a favourite with the children, and we love seeing what they can create and inspire us with their imaginations.

The Wombats will be beginning their Mother's Day celebrations (no peeking) and we will continue to follow in the month of May, Emergency Services Week exploring the different Services that keep us Safe and help us when in need. Reconciliation week and Nature Play week is in the month of June.

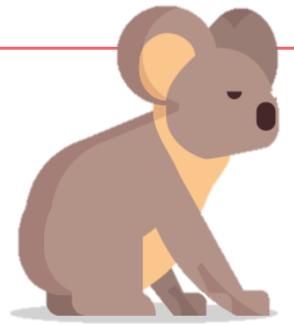
We are looking forward to the Parent Night in the month of May where we can discuss any of your concerns and feedback on this special night, we would love this opportunity to catch up with you all. With the easing of restrictions, being able to open our doors to the parents for parent night will be a nice treat, and a great opportunity to reconnect and talk about our favourite topic, your children! If you are unable to attend, we would love to see you during our work hours, so don't hesitate to reach out and make an appointment to come.

The Wombats Team

Dee, Meagan, Kathy & Surinder



From The Koalas Room



Dear Families,

Welcome to our April Newsletter.

We have seen lots of our children growing in their confidence as they have settled into our room. We have been so impressed with how well they have adjusted to our new COVID changes regarding your drop off and pick up routines. We feel it has had many positive outcomes regarding their independence. They are doing so well with hanging their bags, putting their drink bottles on the trolley, applying sunscreen, and finding their hats. We are so proud of them 😊

We have recently celebrated a range of wonderful events and experiences and we are trying to give you as much feedback on our daily curriculum and community posts, so you won't feel you are missing out 😊. Our Harmony Week was wonderful and gave us the opportunity to be very creative with colouring and painting flowers, but Easter and Chickens were the highlight! Our children have absolutely loved the eggs, chicks, and incubator. It is wonderful to see how excited, gentle, and caring they were once they saw the cute little chicks. It was a wonderful opportunity to discuss the life cycle of the chicks and we also spent time reading books on other animals that lay eggs, which our children have really enjoyed. Anzac week was very special, and we used the technology to research poppies and read some special book about Anzac Day and showing respect for the brave soldiers who fought to keep our country safe

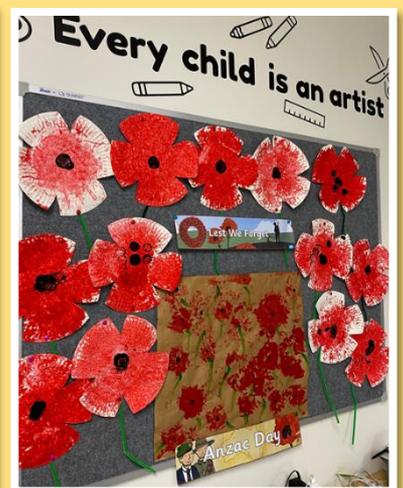
We have been very impressed with how well our Koalas are progressing with their social and emotional skills and developing their communication and assertive words. We are encouraging kind words and assertive words rather than using our hands to settle disagreements.

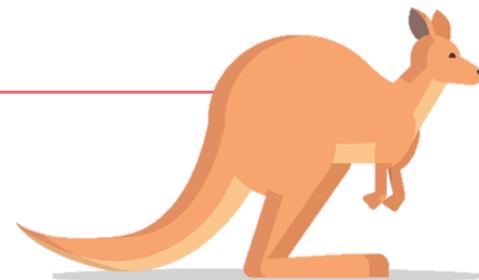
For some of our children who are still toilet training, we have seen wonderful progress and success. We are so proud of how far they have come in just a few weeks. Thank you so much for supporting them and supplying extra changes of clothes and undies, we really appreciate your ongoing support.

We hope we will be able to see you for a catch up in May, however if you have any questions or ideas that you would like to share with us, please don't hesitate to use Storypark as a way of communication at any time.

Many thanks

Gill and Deasy





From The Kangaroos Room

Hello again,

I would like to thank our families for being so patient and accommodating regarding our implementation of the changes of our drop off and pick up practices. I feel the children have done well to adjust and develop new routines.

Over the last couple of months, we have had Harmony Week we have discussed diversity in Australia and explored what inclusive environments looks. We have had Stories Told In Many Ways, where we showed the children that stories can be told in many ways, not only from a story book. One of our major events was having the Chicken's You Can Hatch in the centre for a couple of weeks. We had some positive feedback from families, mentioning that they love this ritual every year before Easter. On the last day before the Easter break, we had an Easter egg hunt and sent the children home with some goodies. Leading up to Anzac Day we discussed what Anzac Day was about, how we remember the soldiers. All these learning opportunities have been documented on Storypark along with the individual learning journeys we are working on now. Please check them out if you haven't yet.

The children have been working really hard on their self-help skills and hygiene practices. We are so proud to see our children become independent with their toileting and apply their own sun cream. Now that the children have been brought to the classrooms by an educator, I have noticed this has supported the children to put away their own belongings and be proactive about putting their sun cream on themselves.

We are looking forward to seeing what the rest of the year brings.

Regards

Chelsee and Deasy





From Our Educational Leader

Hello Hello,

A huge thank you to each and every family here at Blue Gum for your continued and valued support to us here at the centre. Since our last newsletter we have made a few changes to the way our families drop off and pick up their children here from the centre each day. This change was due to COVID-19, and it was a tricky one to handle. It was a big change for our Educators, children, and families.

A Greetings Educator was appointed each and every morning and afternoon to meet and greet you as you arrived at the centre, and then either take your child to their room, or collect them to bring to you at the end of the day. Now this was a HUGE change to the way Blue Gum has always operated. We have prided ourselves on our open doors, and face to face communication with families about the care and education of each child who attends our service. These new procedures meant we had to make some changes so we could continue to uphold our high standard of communication. We made sure that someone from your child's room was always on hand to swap out with our Greetings Educator, so your child's primary Educator could come and talk to you. We have endeavored to keep those lines of communication open, and families have been reminded to reach out via phone, email, or to make an appointment to set up a face-to-face meeting during a convenient time.

Thanks to Storypark, each family still had full access to our Daily Curriculums, the Individual Observations on children during their tailored Learning Journeys and the children's Daily Routines. Keeping all this information up to date, and as it happens so families know exactly what their children are doing which is so important to us.

Now with the latest easing of restrictions to be implemented here very soon, we are thrilled to once again be able to offer some incursions. First up will be the Kangaroos and Koalas excursion on a Fire Truck with Fireman Kevin in a few weeks' time, and then our first Parents Evening at the end of May for Wombats, Koalas and Kangaroos.

As always, I will try and keep the displays in the foyer as bright and inviting as possible so the families can see what the children will be learning about in the coming weeks.

I think that's it from me, thank you again for your continued support and wonderful feedback.

Rachel
Educational Leader





Get To Know a Theorist and Their Theories

Lev Vygotsky - Sociocultural Theory

Lev Semyonovich Vygotsky (November 17, 1896 – June 11, 1934) was a Soviet psychologist, known for his work on psychological development in children. He is known for his concept of the zone of proximal development (ZPD): the distance between what a student (child, apprentice, new employee, etc.) can do on their own, and what they can accomplish with the support of someone more knowledgeable about the activity. Vygotsky saw the ZPD as a measure of skills that are in the process of maturing, as supplement to measures of development that only look at a learner's independent ability

- **Children are active partners in their learning**, Vygotsky emphasises the importance of language development, learning and teaching to the child's cognitive development. (Theorist Vygotsky)
- **Children learn twice**. First by watching and thinking, next by doing (Theorist Vygotsky)
- **Cognitive Development**, Emphasises the role of language in the development of thinking processes (Theorist Vygotsky)
- **Culture** shapes how we learn and what we see (Theorist Vygotsky)
- Learning occurs within **social interactions** that involve communication (Theorist Vygotsky)
- **Play**, Especially imaginative play, is an important way for the child to develop thinking and speaking (Vygotsky)
- **Scaffolding**, Where an adult or more skilled child provides a little bit of help, so the child can complete a task themselves. (Vygotsky)
- **Stage 1 Conceptual development**: Unordered Heaps - mathematical. Uses conceptualise thoughts, problem solving skills or trial and error during the preschool stage of development. (Theorist Vygotsky)
- **Stage 2 Cognitive Development**: Thinking in Complex. Children begin to make connections between objects but not in a consistent manner (Theorist Vygotsky)
- **Stage 3 Cognitive Development**: Thinking in concepts Children are able to think in more abstract concepts and make associations (Theorist Vygotsky)
- **Stage 4 Cognitive Development**: Thinking in true concepts, Children can manipulate a number of abstract concepts. (Theorist Vygotsky)
- **The role of language** is a crucial element to developing cognitive development (Theorist Vygotsky)
- **Zone of Proximal Development**, an important role for adults in extending children's learning beyond areas in which they are independently capable. (Theorist Vygotsky)

